

LWV Observers Program

For a League to be effective in a community it must promote the understanding of how local government works. Local League Observers learn about how government works and about issues that are or may become items for local League study and action. Consistent League presence at these meetings can add to the League's visibility and credibility.

What is an Observer's Goal?

To monitor governmental bodies for information of importance to the League and the community/state



The League keeps up with local government, even when the news media doesn't cover it. More observers are needed.

Responsibilities of an Observer

- Attend assigned meetings, arriving promptly.
- Take notes/fill out observer form or report actions of interest.
- Advise your LWV board of opportunities for action on League positions.

Why Do We Have Observers?

Informed and active participation of citizens in government, increased understanding of major public policy issues, and influencing public policy through education and advocacy is an important part of the League of Women Voters.

An Observer Corps helps meet that mission. By regularly attending public meetings of local governmental agencies, the Observer Corps' members keep elected officials aware of the organization's interest in local government and helps



all the organization's members be better informed citizens through the reports on those meetings.

Who Can Be an Observer?

Any League member can join their League's Local Government Observers group to observe a local government after completing LWWIL Observer Training. You select the local government group of your choice and attend meetings regularly. Observers meet as needed to discuss their observations and whether to recommend any League action. A "seasoned Observer" will attend your first meeting or two with you to help you understand things we might look for. Usually you are asked to send in a meeting report on a regular schedule.